

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 27, 2020

The Honorable Jason E. Kearns  
Chair  
United States International Trade Commission  
500 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20436

Re: Investigation No. TA-201-076 (Extension)

Dear Chair Kearns:

For almost a decade, we have fought to support the washing machine industry in the United States on behalf of our 10,000 constituents employed by Whirlpool Corporation at their five locations throughout Ohio. After many trade cases, and repeated country hopping by foreign producers, we were pleased with the Commission's safeguard determination in December 2017.

As a result of the safeguard, we have seen the domestic industry begin to return to a competitive footing. This has included investments in facilities and personnel, as well as taking steps towards launching new and innovative products.

Unfortunately, imports of millions of washers by foreign competitors combined with the economic downturn as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, have limited the efficacy of the safeguard. We believe that for the safeguard to reach its intended effect, and for the industry to continue to invest in its people, plants, and products, the safeguard remedy should be extended. Moreover, because the safeguard remedy as currently implemented is working, the tariff rate quota should be liberalized only very modestly over the course of the extension.

Doing so will be critical for Ohio. Whirlpool Corporation employs 3,000 workers making washing machines in Clyde, and another 7,000 spread across facilities in Marion, Findley, Ottawa, and Greenville. The extension and modification of the safeguard is crucial for the economic, social, and civic health of each of these communities.

We urge you to thoughtfully consider Whirlpool's request to extend and strengthen the safeguard to maximize its benefits for the domestic industry and its workers, and thank you for your steadfast support of American jobs.

Sincerely,

/s/Rob Portman

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Rob Portman  
United States Senator

/s/Sherrod Brown

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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator